# AMERICAN PUBLIC LANDS AND WATERS CLIMATE SOLUTION ACT

## SECTION-BY-SECTION

### SECTION 2. PUBLIC LANDS ENERGY AND CLIMATE POLICY.

Establishes the policy that the United States needs to aggressively reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, that better management of our public lands and oceans is an essential component of emission reduc, that climate impacts and human well-being need to be drivers for energy development decisions on public lands, and that environmental justice communities should be meaningfully engaged in public lands management decisions.

### SECTION 3. PUBLIC LANDS GREENHOUSE GAS REDUCTION TARGETS AND REQUIREMENTS.

Requires the Department of the Interior (DOI) and the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) to reduce net-GHG emissions from public lands and oceans–as defined in Section 9–to zero by 2040, and sets intermediate emission reduction targets for 2025, 2030, and 2035. New federal fossil fuel leasing would be paused for a minimum of one year after enactment to allow DOI to develop a comprehensive strategy–as detailed in Section 5–to reach the 2025 emission target, and leasing could only resume if the Secretary of the Interior certifies that all targets in the bill could be met even if new leasing resumed.

Subsection (d) directs the National Academies of Sciences to conduct a study to provide additional strategies for the federal government to achieve the net-GHG reduction targets. Subsection (e) requires the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) to establish a methodology for verifying net emission reductions and determine no later than June 1 of the following year whether or not the targets for a given year have been achieved. The USGS determination and all data underlying that determination would have to be made available to the public online. Subsection (f) states that if the USGS finds that emissions are exceeding the target for a given year, no new fossil fuel permits or leases could be issued until the target is met.

Subsection (g) requires that the Secretary of the Interior and the Chief of the Forest Service prioritize reductions of GHG emissions and co-pollutants that impact environmental justice communities and minimize follow-on impacts that negatively affect those communities.

### SECTION 4. ONLINE PUBLICATION OF GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS.

Requires the online publication of information regarding GHG emissions and avoided GHG emissions from public lands.

### SECTION 5. PUBLIC LANDS GREENHOUSE GAS REDUCTION STRATEGIC PLAN.

Requires that DOI and USFS jointly publish a strategy every four years that explains how the departments will meet the net-GHG reduction targets from Section 3. Each strategy would have to include intermediate emission reduction targets for each calendar year. The two agencies must consult with other agencies and solicit input from states, Native American tribes, local governments, scientists, and technical experts to develop the strategy and then open the strategy for public comment for 60 days.

Subsection (c) allows the agencies to update the strategy more often than required in order to set more aggressive emission reduction targets.

Subsection (f) requires that DOI and USFS consider certain factors and circumstances when developing the strategy, including, but not limited to:

- The dependence of state finances on federal energy revenues;
- Ways to support workers in the fossil fuel sector and related industries that rely on the fossil fuel supply-chain;
- The impacts of climate change on national parks, wildlife habitat, ocean and marine ecosystems, water supplies, and the outdoor recreation economy; and
- The potential GHG reduction and climate resilience benefits of reclaiming abandoned mine land, orphaned well cleanup, and other land reclamation and restoration activities.

Subsection (g) requires that each strategy, and the responses to state or tribal government recommendations, be made available to the public online.

## SECTION 6. REVENUES FOR TRANSITION ASSISTANCE.

This section raises revenue for the Federal Energy Transition Economic Development Assistance Fund (Fund) established in Section 7 by increasing royalties on onshore coal, oil, and natural gas from 12.5 percent to 18.75 percent, establishing a $4.00/acre fee for all producing oil and gas leases, and establishing a $6.00/acre fee for all nonproducing oil and gas leases. Fifty percent of the new funds from increasing the royalty rate are deposited into the Fund, while the rest are returned to the state where the extraction occurred. All funds from the fees on producing and nonproducing leases are deposited into the Fund.

Subsection (e) requires the Secretary of the Interior to adjust the fees for inflation at least once every four years.

Paragraph (a)(4) removes the language in the Mineral Leasing Act regarding the frequency of onshore oil and gas lease sales.

## SECTION 7. ECONOMIC REVITALIZATION FOR FOSSIL FUEL DEPENDENT COMMUNITIES.

Establishes a Federal Energy Transition Economic Development Assistance Fund to help workers and communities make the transition away from a fossil-fuel-dependent economy. Thirty-five percent of the Fund is allocated to states based on a formula reflecting existing fossil fuel production, and thirty-five percent is allocated based on a formula reflecting historical production. The remaining thirty percent will be awarded through competitive grants.

Subsection (c) establishes the allowable uses of money from the Fund, including for reclamation and restoration of land and water, carbon sequestration projects in natural systems, existing worker retraining and apprenticeship programs, diversifying local and regional economies, guaranteeing pensions and retirement security, and development and support of clean energy educational programs.

Subsection (e) establishes a Just Transition Advisory Committee charged with advising, assisting, and supporting the Secretary of the Interior in the management and allocation of receipts in the Fund. The Advisory Committee would be chaired by the Director of the Office of Climate Change Mitigation and Planning, established in Section 8, and the members of the Advisory Committee would include relevant government officials and representatives of labor unions, Native American tribes, environmental organizations, environmental justice organizations, fossil fuel transition communities, and public interest groups.

## SECTION 8. OFFICE OF CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION AND PLANNING.

Creates an Office of Climate Change Mitigation and Planning (Office) within DOI and tasks the Office with implementing the Act and overseeing the tracking of all GHG emissions and sinks from public lands, coordinating across bureaus and offices to ensure the GHG targets are met, and monitoring and managing the distribution of money from the Fund. The Director of the Office would be appointed by the President.

## SECTION. 9. DEFINITIONS.

Section 9 defines several important terms and phrases, including net-emissions, which means the total GHG emissions associated with the extraction and end-use combustion of fossil fuels produced from U.S. public lands and waters in a year, reduced in the same year by: the total avoided emissions from generation of renewable energy on public lands and waters, the absolute change in carbon stored within terrestrial ecosystems on an annual basis, the amount of new geologically sequestered carbon on public lands and oceans, and other carbon captured and sequestered by negative emissions technologies.